

Fireboat Crew Smoke Victims At Liner Fire

Acting Battalion Chief Murray, Captain Burns and 8 Other N. Y. Fighters Overcome on Nieuw Amsterdam

One Taken to Hospital

Passengers Put Ashore as
Flames Rage in Ship's
Hold; Sailing Delayed

Acting Battalion Chief Frederick Murray and Captain Dorsey Burns and the entire crew of eight men on the fireboat James Duane were overcome by smoke yesterday while helping the Nieuw Amsterdam, which had been on fire since it was discovered at 10:30 p. m. yesterday.

The Nieuw Amsterdam, which was to have sailed at noon with 700 passengers for Rotterdam and Boulogne, was still in New York harbor when the fire was discovered. It was late in the afternoon before the fire was under control.

Loss Estimated at \$150,000

No estimate could be made yesterday of the damage of the burned cargo, but it is thought that the loss will amount to about \$150,000. The damage to the ship is negligible, as the cargo was confined to hold No. 5, which is walled off from other compartments. Nevertheless, the Holland-America Line officials decided that they would not let the Nieuw Amsterdam depart until the hold had been emptied and a survey made of the burned area.

It was said at the ship yesterday that the fire was ready to sail for Rotterdam at noon on Tuesday.

Many of the passengers who had gone aboard before the fire was discovered went either to their homes or to hotels

Nap in Baby Buggy Costs Fat Man \$9.50

John Hummell, who says he lives in Brooklyn, was fined \$9.50 yesterday by Police Judge Walter in West Hoboken for intoxication, that being the amount of damage Mrs. John Vane estimated her baby carriage had suffered because of a nap Mr. Hummell took in it. The fine was turned over to Mrs. Vane.

She found Mr. Hummell, who weighs 225 pounds, asleep in the baby carriage in the vestibule of her home, 520 Dodd Street, West Hoboken, Friday and had him arrested.

to the pier within an hour before noon went either to their homes or to hotels in Manhattan.

Captain Heads Fire Fighters

There was little or no grumbling on the part of the passengers, as they realized that it was fortunate for every one that the fire was discovered before the Nieuw Amsterdam was well on her way to the Atlantic.

Few fires along the water front have been fought with more persistence than the hold blaze on the Nieuw Amsterdam. Throughout the five hours of the combat firemen and officers of the ship were frequently overcome, and after being revived went back into the smoky pit where they had been bowled over.

Captain Peter Van der Heuvel, master of the vessel, doffed his immaculate uniform, and with dungaree trousers and a meshed undershirt went into the thick of the combat, giving directions and informing the fire-fighters of the lay of the hold. He stuck to the job until the fire was under control, and even then seemed reluctant to quit for dinner.

While the hold was filled chiefly with ship's stores, the skipper said, there also was some grain stored there, and it was from the roasting cereal that much of the depressing fumes came.

When a call for help was sent to New York the fireboat Duane steamed over to Hoboken and her men made a survey of the situation. They piled aboard the vessel and put several lines of hose into the hold, and fed the vessel so much water that she settled a trifle in the after section. The men on the Duane worked so hard that they were exhausted, and reserves were brought over on another fireboat, who then manned the streams on the Duane.

Rudolph Van Erb, chief officer, was the one who discovered the fire. When he observed smoke popping out in small jets from the hold he ordered the coverings ripped off and went in himself to fight it with a hand extinguisher. He did not realize the size of the fire and was soon overcome. A search was made for him by men of his

crew and he was hauled out unconscious.

Despite the intensity of the heat and denseness of the smoke the fire fighters did not keep out of the hold. Many of them wore masks, but for all that they were overcome.

A conspicuous figure on the Nieuw Amsterdam was Miss Julia Lichtenstein, a trained nurse from St. Mary's Hospital, who came to the pier with the first call for ambulances. She was not content to wait outside for patients, but went into the hold herself several times and gave first aid to firemen who had been overcome.

Fireboat Officer Bowled Over

Lieutenant Charles Thompson, of the fireboat Duane, went into the hold without his gas mask, and was hauled out unconscious a few minutes later. He was finally restored after the doctors worked over him for forty minutes.

Andrew Keller, chief of the Hoboken Fire Department, went into the smoke-ridden compartment three times, and on each trip was overcome. On his last effort he was brought from the ship on a stretcher.

Another determined fire enter was Michael McManus, of Engine Company No. 3, of the Hoboken Fire Department. He also made three trips into the hold and was advised to keep out. On his third exit the attending doctors had difficulty in restoring him to consciousness, and he was taken to the hospital.

Captain Van der Heuvel said the damage to the cargo is covered by insurance.

Tests for Warships Begun

Naval Board Making Standardization Trials

ROCKLAND, Me., July 8.—A series of experiments designed to test the effects of various displacements on the speed, horsepower and cruising radius of warships was begun here to-day by a naval board of inspection and survey, with the torpedo boat destroyer Brooks.

The Brooks was given a full standardization trial at a displacement, which recorded 1,640 tons at the middle of five high runs. This, the naval experts said, was the heaviest displacement of any destroyer ever tried by the United States government, being 332 tons greater than the displacement of the Brooks on her trial runs when she acquired a speed slightly exceeding 35 knots.

To-day's trial, according to the board, showed the expected retarding of speed, the maximum rate being 32.24 knots. Further trials will be made at 100 tons less displacement each day for four days.

Police Recover Stolen Autos

As a result of the arrest of Merlin Everett in Newark, New Jersey state police have recovered six automobiles known to have been stolen, six others which they believe to have been stolen, and hope to recover a dozen more.

Captain Weimann of the state police said he believed 100 cars would be restored to their owners when his investigation was finished.

Death of Brother Saddens Birthday of John D. Rockefeller

"Oil King" Spends 33d Anniversary in Reflection at Pocantico Hills Home; Cancels Brass Band Order

The huge birthday cake which Mr. Rockefeller takes delight in cutting and passing to his guests, with comments on the ability displayed in this work of art by his hens and his cook, was not baked this year.

His son, John D. Rockefeller Jr., and his grandchildren, whose estate adjoins his own and who ordinarily plan to be there on Mr. Rockefeller's birthday and spend the day with him, went to Seal Harbor, Me., several days ago. They sent congratulatory messages and hundreds of others came to Pocantico Hills from friends of the oil man in many parts of the world.

Mr. Rockefeller was born in Richford, N. Y., in 1839. Just before William Rockefeller's fatal illness he and John D. Rockefeller made a pilgrimage to their boyhood home in Richford.

The order for the birthday brass band also was canceled. Mr. Rockefeller is fond of band music and usually presents himself to indulge in it without restraint once a year. On every birthday for years he has had a brass band at Pocantico Hills and has made up his own program of music, consisting for the most part of old melodies.

The usual unostentatious celebration was canceled.

The only bit of the usual birthday routine which was observed was the morning round of golf, and that is Mr. Rockefeller's almost daily custom anyway. Invitations to relatives and friends to spend the day with him had

been canceled after the death of William Rockefeller.

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Seized on Woman's Charge Swindling Mrs. Ferguson

Alexander E. Muhleman, of 617 West 152d Street, was arrested last night near his home by Detectives Hauptman and Ornstein, of the West 152d Street police station, and Deputy Sheriff Charles Lent, of Westchester County, charged with grand larceny.

He is accused in an indictment found in Westchester of obtaining \$2,000 from Mrs. Ella Ferguson, of Rye, ostensibly to invest in the promotion of a wholesale drug business which she was told, she says, would double her money in two months.

Deputy Sheriff Lent said he had received more than one hundred complaints against the man in connection with similar transactions. Lent has been searching for him for weeks, but although his home is within a block and a half of the West 152d Street police station, the detective never succeeded in finding him there until last night.

Actress Dies of Poison She Took in Fit of Despondency

Miss Anna Duane, nineteen years old, an actress living at the Lang-

acre Hotel, who took bichloride of mercury tablets in the Pennsylvania Station last Monday night, died last night at Bellevue Hospital. The young woman had taken part in several Broadway productions and had later been in vaudeville. It is said her failure to obtain employment had made her despondent.

Miss Duane left a letter addressed to her mother, Mrs. Anna Duane, of 1008 Willow Street, San Francisco. With her when she died was Miss Duane's aunt, Mrs. H. Dorsey, of 5115 Blair Street, Pittsburgh.

Execution of 11 Petrograd Clericals of Moscow Put Off

RIGA, July 8 (By The Associated Press).—Word was received here to-day that the execution of the Petrograd Clericals, who had been sentenced to death for interfering with the seizure of church treasures had been postponed.

The conviction of sixty-four persons of this offense was announced in Moscow July 8, eleven of the accused being sentenced to death and fifty-three others to various terms of imprisonment.

Fight Reveals Still Woman in Battle With Janitor Tells Police to Search Rooms

Somebody living in the Florida apartments, 1061 St. Nicholas Avenue, heard the din of battle in the superintendant's rooms in the basement last night and blew a police whistle.

Detective Masie and Patrolman McVoy, who responded, found Goss Schmidt, the superintendant, and Mrs. Anna Suering, his assistant, engaged in a hand to hand encounter. They separated the pair and asked Mrs. Suering if she wanted to make a complaint against Schmidt.

"Not me," said Mrs. Suering magnanimously. "If you want to arrest him all you got to do is to search his rooms."

The policemen took the hint and say they found a twenty-five-gallon still in full blast, three barrels of mash and two bottles of liquor. Mrs. Suering was left in full possession of the field. Schmidt and the illicit furnishings of his apartment went to the West 152d Street police station. The apartment house is at 153d Street.



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